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Mr. Carver

27 August 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Economic Warfare Committee

TIME: Friday, 27 August 1965, 1000-1130
PLACE: Mr. Stoneman's office, Room 6212, New State Building
PARTICIPANTS: Mr. W. G. Stoneman, Deput. AA/FE/AID
Mr. Solomon Silver, PDO/FE/AID
Mr. John Bennett, PDO/FE/AID
Mr. Gilbert H. Kenney, State/FE/ER (Mr. Bundy's staff)
Mr. Paul Bolabenis, State/INR/FE
[redacted] DIA
Mr. George A. Carver, Jr., CIA/VAS
[redacted] CIA/OKR

1. Mr. Stoneman had to leave to brief a Congressman and turned the chair over to Mr. Silver. The briefing of Mission Director-Designate Charles Mann on Friday, 20 August was discussed as was the background of DEPTTEL 510, sent on Saturday, August 21.

3. Most of the meeting was devoted to a lengthy and generally profitless review of economic warfare problems and things that might be done about them in Washington. It was agreed that resources control was poor, the volume of iron and steel imports to Vietnam was suspicious since it seemed to exceed any reasonable demand by legitimate users, and that medicines constituted a strategic commodity much needed by the VC. Some ideas for denying medicines (especially antibiotics) to the VC were tabled for discussion. In this as in

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other denial suggestions, the immediate argument was raised (usually by Mr. Bennett) that the problems were difficult, the GVN could not effectively cooperate, and innocent legitimate consumers would probably be hurt.

4. The only substantive decisions taken were that we would wait until a field reply to DEPTTEL 510 had been received before meeting further, would needle Saigon if a reply had not been received by Wednesday, September 1 outlining how the US Mission proposed to address the economic warfare problem, and that further meetings and activities of the Washington Economic Warfare Committee would be guided by the Mission's answers.

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GEORGE A. CARVER, JR.
Vietnamese Affairs Staff

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